

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission

ITEM

17

DECISION

TOPIC Friends Group Firewood and Souvenir Concession Contracts - Various Parks

The Department requests Commission approval of firewood contracts to three state park/recreation area friends groups and a firewood and souvenirs contract to one state park friends group.

Friends groups are defined in 571 I.A.C. 14.1 as “an organization incorporated under Iowa Code chapter 504A as a not-for-profit group which has been formed solely for the purpose of promoting and enhancing a particular state park or recreation area.” These groups are not subject to Chapter 14’s bidding procedures.

Pursuant to 571 I.A.C. 14.3(2)“f”, persons selling only firewood may do so with a letter/permit from the director provided the park or recreation area has no other concessionaire, or provided the concessionaire has declined the opportunity to sell firewood.

Pursuant to 571 I.A.C. 14.3(3), friends groups may offer souvenirs, books, photos, and other memorabilia for sale in a state park by requesting that a letter/permit be issued by the director. All proceeds from the sale of merchandise by the friends group must be spent on repair, replacement, or enhancement of facilities within the park.

Upon review of the Articles of Incorporation for these friends groups, it was identified that the purpose statements need to be updated to include language that the group was formed *solely* for the purpose of promoting and enhancing a particular state park or recreation area.

With the summer camping season fast approaching, the Department is proposing these contracts be approved with clear revocation language that is triggered if the friends group fails to amend their “statements of purpose” within 45 days of signing. This conditional acceptance will ensure the needs of park visitors and campers are immediately met upon the opening of the season and giving the friends group ample time to properly amend their Articles of Incorporation, a simple yet time-intensive change.

Firewood Concession Contract – Ledges State Park – Friends of the Ledges, Inc.

Commission approval is requested for a one-year firewood contract with Friends of the Ledges. The contract will terminate on December 31, 2010. All proceeds from the sale of firewood by the friends group will be spent on repair, replacement, or enhancement of facilities within the park.

Firewood Concession Contract – Walnut Woods State Park – Friends of Walnut Woods State Park

Commission approval is requested for a five-year firewood contract with Friends of Walnut Woods. The contract will terminate on December 31, 2014. All proceeds from the sale of firewood by the friends group will be spent on repair, replacement, or enhancement of facilities within the park.

Firewood Concession Contract – Wilson Island State Recreation Area – Friends of Wilson Island State Recreation Area

Commission approval is requested for a five-year firewood contract with Friends of Wilson Island State Recreation Area. The contract will terminate on December 31, 2014. All proceeds from the sale of firewood by the friends group will be spent on repair, replacement, or enhancement of facilities within the park.

Firewood and Souvenir Concession Contract – Prairie Rose State Park – Friends of Prairie Rose State Park

Commission approval is requested for a five-year firewood and souvenir contract with Friends of Prairie Rose. The contract will terminate on December 31, 2014. All proceeds from the sale of firewood by the friends group will be spent on repair, replacement, or enhancement of facilities within the park.

Kevin Szcodronski, Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
4/8/10